

(p. 303), Moyobamba, Peru; *Leucippus fallax richmondi* (p. 303), Margarita Isl.; *Piaya cayana ceare* (p. 304) Ceara, Brazil; *P. melanogaster ochracea* (p. 304) Yurimaguas, Peru; *Chrysoptilus punctigula zulix* (p. 305), Zulia, W. Peru; *Veniliornis tenuinotus ceare* (p. 306), Ceara, Brazil; *Scapanus melanoleucus ceare* (p. 306), Ceara, Brazil; and *S. pallens peruviana* (p. 307), Molinopampa, Peru. Following these is a 'Key to the South American Species and Subspecies Belonging to the Genus Piaya.' This does not seem to be a very happy treatment of the subject, in-as-much-as the statements of several authors are ignored without explanation and several subspecies are omitted without any mention whatever. Thus *P. c. cabanisi* Allen is ignored although Hellmayr states that it is a valid race (Nov. Zool. XVII, No. 3, p. 401) while we find no reference to *P. c. boliviana* Stone. We moreover look in vain for remarks "antea" referred to at bottom of p. 310. Mr. Cory's paper concludes with a 'Revision of the Sparrow Hawks of South America and Adjacent Islands,' which includes diagnoses of three new forms, *Cerchneis sparveria andina* (p. 323), Quito, Ecuador; *C. s. intermedia* (p. 325), Villavicencio, Colombia; and *C. s. perplexa* (p. 327), Lower Essequibo River, British Guiana, making fourteen in all which are recognized by the author.—W. S.

Burns on Periods of Incubation.¹—Mr. Burns has done a good work in compiling a list setting forth the time of incubation for some 225 species and races of North American birds. Comparatively few careful studies of this subject have been made, most oölogists being more anxious to secure the egg shells intact than to ascertain how many days will elapse before the young break out of them. The figures given are therefore often estimates or guesses rather than the result of actual observation, and something authoritative has been a great desideratum. The only weak point in Mr. Burns' paper is that he does not quote his authority for the individual figures, and the list of authors and correspondents from whose statements the list is compiled, must necessarily represent a considerable range of accuracy. Even if the figures for which he could personally vouch were so marked it would have added a large measure of strength to his paper, as his care and accuracy are well known. The use of the query as denoting "possible inaccuracy" is not clear, as we note in the case of the Sparrow Hawk the period of incubation is given as "29-30(?) days" whereas in 'The Auk' for July, 1913, Miss Althea R. Sherman, in a most careful study of this species, ascertained the period from deposition to hatching in four eggs of this species to be from earliest to latest 35, 31, 30 and 29 days respectively. At all events Mr. Burns's list is an excellent foundation upon which to build. Let there be more energy devoted to this phase of the subject and less to the amassing of egg shells, and let observers check up their results with Mr. Burns' list.—W. S.

¹ Comparative Periods of Deposition and Incubation of Some North American Birds. By Frank L. Burns. Wilson Bulletin, No. 90. March, 1915. pp. 275-286.